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*PH*  
*6.16.07*  
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Yuichi YAMADA et al. ) Prior Examiner: Q. Le  
Application No.: Unassigned ) Prior Group Art Unit: 2878  
(Divisional of Appln. No. 08/904,867, )  
filed August, 1, 1997.) )  
Filed: December 21, 2001 ) December 21, 2001  
For: SURFACE POSITION DETECTING )  
METHOD )

The Commissioner for Patents  
**BOX PATENT APPLICATION**  
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the present Abstract of the Disclosure with the following:

*A1*  
-- A scanning exposure apparatus includes a surface position adjuster for adjusting the surface position of an object with respect to an image plane of a projection optical system, on the basis of a detection by the surface position detector in the projection, a controller for controlling a moving system and the surface position detector to perform a pre-scan measurement of the surface position of the object, prior to the projection, so as to detect an error, related to the detection through the surface position detector, with respect to each of detection points, which error is attributable to a difference in pattern structure at